

## **Post-Event Summary Report for White House Conference on Aging**

**Name of Event:** Elder Mistreatment: What Every Health Care Professional Should Know

**Date of Event:** March 9, 2005

**Location of Event:** Hunter College School of Social Work, City University of New York

**Number of Persons attending:** 100

**Sponsoring Organization:** The Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers

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***Elder Mistreatment: What Every Health Care Professional Should Know***, an officially designated activity of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, was held on March 9, 2005 at the Hunter College School of Social Work. Over 100 professionals from a broad spectrum of disciplines attended the conference which was sponsored by the Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers as part of a larger Elder Mistreatment Training Project funded by the Division of State, Community and Public Health, Bureau of Health Professions (BHPR), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Collaborating Partners on the NYGEC Elder Mistreatment Training Program (EMTP) are Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College, Maimonides Medical Center, Mount Sinai Medical School, NYU Division of Nursing, New York City Department for The Aging, New York State Office for The Aging, and NYS Office of Children and Family Services, New York State's Protective Services for Adults program, provided through local county departments of social services. The Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers Co-directors participating in the EMTP includes Terry Fulmer, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, Dennis L. Kodner, Ph.D., and Barbara E. Paris, M.D., FACP. The EMTP Project Implementation Director is Adolfo Firpo, MD, MPA, FCAP, Principal and Senior Consultant FCS for Health Policy & Management, Division of Nursing, Steinhardt School of Education, New York University.

*Elder Mistreatment: What Every Health Care Professional Should Know* conference outcome recommendations were developed by Iris Mulé, MSW, LCSW, Acting Associate Executive Director, Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College. Ms. Mulé also presented these recommendations on behalf of the Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers at the June 17<sup>th</sup> *NYC Resolutions Summit*, the culminating White House Conference on Aging Independent Aging Agenda Event (IAAE) for New York City.

The NYC Resolutions Summit, sponsored by the New York City Department for the Aging, the Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers, and the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at the Division of Nursing, Steinhardt School of Education, New York University, brought together representatives from the 12 prior IAAEs held in New York City from January through May 2005. Summit participants, who represented academic, health, social service and government organizations, heard summaries from the sponsors of the 12 NYC Independent Aging Agenda Events, reviewed recommendations from each event, and then voted on the resolutions. Elder Mistreatment emerged as fifth among the eleven critical priorities chosen for submission to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging from New York City, America's largest urban area with the greatest number of older Americans in the country.

***Elder Mistreatment: What Every Health Care Professional Should Know***  
***Presentations:***

***The Public Health Perspective on Elder Mistreatment***

Dennis L. Kodner, PhD  
*The Rose Dobrof Executive Director*  
*Brookdale Center on Aging of Hunter College*  
*Professor of Urban Public Health*  
*Schools of Health Professions, Hunter College*  
*The City University of New York*

***Elder Mistreatment Research: Today and Tomorrow***

Terry Fulmer, Ph.D., RN, FAAN  
*The Erline Perkins McGriff Professor &*  
*Head, Division of Nursing*  
*Steinhardt School of Education*  
*New York University*

***Clinical Diagnosis and Management of Elder Mistreatment***

Barbara E. Paris, M.D., FACP  
*Vice Chair, Department of Medicine*  
*Director, Geriatrics & General Medicine*  
*Maimonides Medical Center*  
*Clinical Professor*  
*Mt. Sinai School of Medicine*

***International Health and Human Rights of Elder Victims of Abuse***

Lia S. Daichman, M.D.  
*Chair, International Network for The Prevention of Elder Abuse*  
*Chair, Latin American Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse*

***Definition of the Problem: Effective Interventions to Elder Mistreatment***

Adolfo Firpo, M.D., MPA, FACP  
*Project Director, Elder Mistreatment Training Project*  
*Division of Nursing, Steinhardt School of Education, NYU*  
*Principal and Chief Consultant*  
*FCS for Health Policy and Management*

***The Role of Adult Protective Services***

Susan B. Somers, JD  
*Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Adult Protective Services*  
*New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Albany*  
*Secretary-General, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse*

***The Prosecution of Perpetrators of Elder Mistreatment***

Elizabeth Loewy, JD  
*Assistant District Attorney, Attorney in Charge of Elder Abuse Program, New York County*  
*District Attorney's Office*

***Elder Mistreatment Training for Law Enforcement: New Model Curricula***

Peter Martin, LMSW  
*Project Coordinator*

*Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center  
NYC Department for the Aging*

***A Model Elder Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Shelter Program***

Daniel Reingold, J.D., MSW  
*President & Chief Executive Director  
The Hebrew Home for the Aged*

***Medicare Reimbursement for Clinical Services to Victims of Elder Mistreatment***

Ms. Katherine Dunphy  
*Assistant Vice President, Beneficiary & Provider Information  
Empire Medicare Services, NY*

***Select Power Point presentations are available at [www.nygec.org](http://www.nygec.org)***

***Elder Mistreatment: What Every Health Care Professional Should Know  
Recommendations for White House Conference on Aging Delegates:***

***Priority Issue: Elder Mistreatment*** is a significant public health and criminal justice issue that encompasses physical, psychological, emotional, sexual and/or financial abuse, exploitation, neglect or abandonment that currently affects between 700,000 and 1.2 million Americans annually and is anticipated to grow in number as Baby Boomers age; and, while elder abuse has been recognized since 1975, many doctors, nurses, social service providers, law enforcement personnel and the general public are still not knowledgeable about or reluctant to address the issue of elder mistreatment.

***Proposed Solutions:***

***Advocate*** for placing elder mistreatment on the national agenda as a growing public health issue and for establishing a national interagency commission for the development of a coherent national policy to prevent, detect and intervene in elder mistreatment, using a conceptual and programmatic framework recommended by a multidisciplinary panel of experts convened by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2002.

***Support*** passage of the Elder Justice Bill.

***Propose*** the establishment of an interagency pool of federal funds and the development of a grant awarding mechanism for collaborative research and education in elder mistreatment that would involve health, social service and law enforcement academics and practitioners.

***Promote*** educational programs to: 1) increase the capacity of healthcare workers, police officers, first responders, legal service providers, social service staff, home care workers, the banking community and the general public to recognize, diagnose, address and report elder mistreatment, 2) increase older people's awareness of legal and financial mechanisms to protect themselves against elder mistreatment, 3) combat victims' guilt, fear, embarrassment and isolation, and, 5) publicize a wide range of community resources, legal services, alternative housing and other options for victims of elder mistreatment.

***Support*** the creation of uniform mandatory reporting laws to mitigate litigation fears for reporters and to increase convictions of elder mistreatment perpetrators.